

Senate Chamber, Atlanta, Georgia  
Wednesday, February 1, 2006  
Eleventh Legislative Day

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment at 10:00 a.m. today and was called to order by the President.

Senator Johnson of the 1st reported that the Journal of the previous legislative day had been read and found to be correct.

By unanimous consent, the reading of the Journal was dispensed with.

The Journal was confirmed.

The following message was received from the House through Mr. Rivers, the Clerk thereof:

Mr. President:

The House has passed by the requisite constitutional majority the following Bills of the House:

HB 494. By Representatives Lindsey of the 54th and Willard of the 49th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 1 of Chapter 17 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to notaries public, so as to provide for additional qualifications of a notary; to change certain provisions relating to the notary's application; to change certain provisions relating to a notary's obligation to advise the clerk of superior court of certain changes in personal information; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

HB 950. By Representatives Cox of the 102nd, Burkhalter of the 50th, Horne of the 71st, Burmeister of the 119th, Geisinger of the 48th and others:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to persons and their rights, so as to prohibit governmental entities in this state from restricting or prohibiting a public employee or public school student from verbal expressions relating to the celebration or observance of any public or legal holiday; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for construction; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

- HB 1034. By Representatives Willard of the 49th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Lindsey of the 54th and Geisinger of the 48th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide for a homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of a homestead exceeds the adjusted base year assessed value of such homestead; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

- HB 1035. By Representatives Willard of the 49th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Lindsey of the 54th and Geisinger of the 48th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide for a homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$10,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city who are disabled or are 65 years of age or over and who meet certain income limitations; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to provide for applicability; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

- HB 1036. By Representatives Willard of the 49th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Lindsey of the 54th and Geisinger of the 48th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide for a homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of a homestead exceeds the base year assessed value of such homestead for senior citizens whose household income does not exceed \$39,000.00; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

- HB 1037. By Representatives Willard of the 49th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Lindsey of the 54th and Geisinger of the 48th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide for a homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$8,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of

that city who are disabled or are 65 years of age or over and who meet certain income limitations; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to provide for applicability; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

HB 1038. By Representatives Willard of the 49th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Lindsey of the 54th and Geisinger of the 48th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide for a homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$15,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to provide for applicability; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

HB 1039. By Representatives Willard of the 49th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Lindsey of the 54th and Geisinger of the 48th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide for a homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes for the full value of the homestead for residents of that city who are disabled or are 70 years of age or over and who meet certain income limitations; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to provide for applicability; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

HB 1102. By Representative Greene of the 149th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to repeal an Act providing a new charter for the City of Coleman, approved April 19, 2000 (Ga. L. 2000, p. 3658), and abolish said city; to provide for the disposition of the assets, property, and legal rights and obligations of the city and the winding up of city affairs; to provide for submission under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

HB 1117. By Representative Ray of the 136th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act providing for a homestead exemption from Crawford County school district ad valorem taxes for

educational purposes in the amount of \$20,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for certain residents of that school district whose annual income does not exceed \$20,000.00 and who are 65 years of age or older or disabled, approved April 1, 1994 (Ga. L. 1994, p. 4515), so as to increase the amount of such exemption and the income cap applicable to such exemption; to provide for applicability; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

HB 1118. By Representative Ray of the 136th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide that future elections for the office of probate judge of Crawford County shall be nonpartisan elections; to provide for submission of this Act under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

HB 1119. By Representative Ray of the 136th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide that future elections for the office of chief magistrate of Crawford County shall be nonpartisan elections; to provide for submission of this Act under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

The House has passed by the requisite constitutional majority the following Resolution of the House:

HR 1041. By Representatives Davis of the 109th, Lunsford of the 110th, Watson of the 91st, Mosby of the 90th, Yates of the 73rd and others:

A RESOLUTION honoring the accomplishments of J. T. Williams and dedicating the J. T. Williams Honorary Bridge; and for other purposes.

The House has passed by the requisite constitutional majority the following Bill of the Senate:

SB 386. By Senator Hudgens of the 47th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 28 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to apportionment of the House of Representatives and Senate and qualifications of members, so as to provide for the composition of state senatorial districts and, in particular, Senate

Districts 46, 47, and 49; to provide for the election of such Senators; to provide when such Senators so elected shall take office; to provide for the continuation of present senatorial districts until a certain time; to provide for other related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

The following Senate legislation was introduced, read the first time and referred to committee:

SB 471. By Senator Reed of the 35th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 48-8-3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to exemptions from sales and use taxation, so as to provide for an additional, limited period of time for a sales and use tax exemption under certain circumstances of jet fuel sold to or used by certain qualifying airlines; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 472. By Senator Rogers of the 21st:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public officers and employees, so as to revise and change the employees' suggestion and award program; to provide for the meritorious award program; to provide for definitions; to provide for establishment and implementation; to provide for powers, duties, and authority of the state personnel board and the commissioner of personnel administration; to provide for agency committees; to provide for awards; to provide for applicability and nonapplicability of certain retirement benefit provisions with respect to such awards; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Insurance and Labor Committee.

SB 473. By Senators Reed of the 35th, Brown of the 26th, Adelman of the 42nd, Golden of the 8th and Stoner of the 6th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the O.C.G.A., relating to the University System of Georgia, so as to provide a short title; to provide that certain students who apply for admission to member institutions of the University System of Georgia as freshman students and who graduated from certain public or private high schools in this state with

a grade point average in the top 10 percent of such student's graduating class shall be automatically admitted; to authorize the Board of Regents to promulgate rules and regulations regarding such admissions; to provide that the Board of Regents and the Georgia Student Finance Commission shall develop a formula for giving extra weight to grades earned in certain classes in calculating a student's high school grade point average; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Higher Education Committee.

SB 474. By Senators Carter of the 13th, Thomas of the 54th, Moody of the 56th, Rogers of the 21st, Seay of the 34th and others:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the O.C.G.A., relating to elementary and secondary education, so as to establish school health advisory councils to serve as advisory bodies to local boards of education on health, physical education, and nutrition policy; to provide for a short title; to provide certain requirements for physical education instruction for students in kindergarten and grades one through eight; to encourage a wide range of supplemental health, physical activity, and nutrition programs that may be provided on school property beyond the confines of the traditional school day; to require local boards of education to adopt and implement a coordinated school health program; to provide for a state office to promote student health and physical fitness; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Education and Youth Committee.

SB 475. By Senators Hill of the 32nd and Hudgens of the 47th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 25 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to life insurance, so as to provide that no insurer offering life insurance coverage to citizens of this state shall deny or refuse to accept an application for life insurance; refuse to issue or renew a contract of life insurance; cancel, restrict, or otherwise terminate a contract of life insurance; or charge a different rate for the same life insurance coverage, based upon an applicant's or insured's past or future travel to the State of Israel; to provide for certain exceptions; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Insurance and Labor Committee.

SB 476. By Senators Miles of the 43rd, Jones of the 10th, Butler of the 55th, Thomas of the 2nd, Seay of the 34th and others:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 5 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to programs and protection for children and youth, so as to enact the "PeachKids—Health Insurance for All Georgia Children Act"; to provide for a short title; to provide for definitions; to provide for the creation of the PeachKids health care insurance plan; to provide for eligibility, health care services, and payment of premiums and copayments; to provide for contracted services; to provide for health care provider enrollment; to provide for application for funding sources; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for construction; to provide for an annual report; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Insurance and Labor Committee.

SB 477. By Senator Thompson of the 33rd:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the state board and department of corrections, so as to require notification of the local government with jurisdiction over the site where the Department of Corrections plans to construct, build, acquire, lease, locate, or contract for the use of any of certain correctional institutions; to provide for a response from the local government so notified; to provide that the department is not authorized to proceed with plans for such correctional facility without consent of the local government; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the State Institutions and Property Committee.

SB 478. By Senator Thompson of the 33rd:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 6 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to sexual offenses, so as to provide an enhanced penalty for certain offenses committed upon persons having a mental abnormality; to provide for a definition; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

SB 479. By Senator Thompson of the 33rd:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 37-1-21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating institutional powers and duties of the Board and Department of Human Resources regarding mental health, so as to require notification of the local government with jurisdiction over the site where the Department of Human Resources and its specified agents and designees plan to construct, build, acquire, lease, locate, or contract for the use of certain facilities, hospitals, or institutions; to provide for a response from the local government so notified; to provide that the department is not authorized to proceed with plans for such facility, hospital, or institution without the consent of the local government; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

SB 480. By Senators Unterman of the 45th, Thomas of the 54th and Goggans of the 7th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the O.C.G.A., relating to nurses, so as to provide for the certification of qualified medication aides; to provide for a short title; to provide legislative findings; to provide for definitions; to provide for the delegation of certain nursing tasks; to provide for powers and responsibilities of the Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Practical Nurses; to provide for certification standards and requirements; to provide for the issuance and renewal of certificates; to provide for permitted and prohibited activities; to provide for requirements of community living arrangements which utilize qualified medication aides; to provide for sanctions; to provide for construction; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

SB 481. By Senators Stephens of the 27th, Douglas of the 17th, Whitehead, Sr. of the 24th, Schaefer of the 50th, Staton of the 18th and others:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to administration and enforcement of the chapter concerning the registration and licensing of motor vehicles, so as to permit military personnel whose vehicles are registered in Georgia and have Georgia license plates who are stationed in other states as part of their military assignments and duties to meet their obligations concerning minimum motor vehicle liability insurance through the purchase of



certain insurance in such other states; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee.

SB 482. By Senators Stephens of the 27th, Whitehead, Sr. of the 24th and Staton of the 18th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 45-9-85 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to payment of indemnification for death or disability generally, beneficiary, designation of method of payment, and procedure for making of payments, so as to increase the indemnification to state highway employees killed or disabled on the job; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Insurance and Labor Committee.

SB 483. By Senators Seay of the 34th, Whitehead, Sr. of the 24th, Zamarripa of the 36th, Reed of the 35th, Goggans of the 7th and others:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Part 1 of Article 3 of Chapter 6 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public roads generally, so as to provide that the Department of Transportation shall conduct a study of each county to identify road corridors along which synchronized traffic signals would significantly improve the flow of traffic; to provide for a certain report; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Transportation Committee.

SB 484. By Senator Bulloch of the 11th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to other state symbols, so as to declare the City of Colquitt as Georgia's First Mural City; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Rules Committee.

SB 485. By Senators Schaefer of the 50th, Balfour of the 9th and Douglas of the 17th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions for the uniform rules of the road, so as to provide that certain persons convicted of

speeding violations shall display a habitual speeder bumper sticker as a condition of his or her probation; to provide that a judge may suspend a driver's license of a person who violates the condition of probation; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee.

SB 486. By Senators Balfour of the 9th, Schaefer of the 50th, Grant of the 25th, Shafer of the 48th and Douglas of the 17th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 34-8-35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the definition of employment under the employment security law, so as to exempt direct sellers from the definition of employment; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Insurance and Labor Committee.

SB 487. By Senators Balfour of the 9th and Schaefer of the 50th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to fire protection and safety, so as to prohibit the sale of cigarettes unless the manufacturer of those cigarettes certifies to the Safety Fire Commissioner that the cigarettes have been tested by the manufacturer and meet certain standards; to provide for a short title; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for definitions; to provide for standards for testing of cigarettes; to provide for written certification; to provide for required marking of cigarettes; to provide for seizure; to provide civil penalties; to provide for inspections; to provide for preemption; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee.

SB 488. By Senators Balfour of the 9th and Douglas of the 17th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 15 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to serious traffic offenses, so as to provide that the county or district department of family and children services shall be notified in the event that a person is convicted of operating a

motor vehicle under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or other intoxicating substances with a minor child in the vehicle; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee.

SB 489. By Senators Balfour of the 9th, Schaefer of the 50th and Douglas of the 17th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to issuance, expiration, and renewal of drivers' licenses, so as to require certain specified new drivers to display a bumper decal which decal shall indicate that he or she is a new driver; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee.

SB 490. By Senators Balfour of the 9th, Schaefer of the 50th and Douglas of the 17th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 15 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to serious traffic offenses, so as to provide that a person convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other intoxicating substances shall display a bumper sticker on his or her motor vehicle as a condition of his or her probation on a second or subsequent offense within five years; to provide that a judge may suspend a driver's license of a person who violates the condition of probation; to provide for related matters; to provide for applicability and an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee.

SB 491. By Senators Schaefer of the 50th, Grant of the 25th, Douglas of the 17th and Balfour of the 9th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 15 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to serious traffic offenses, so as to provide that a person convicted of driving under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or other intoxicating substances on the fifth or subsequent offense shall be guilty of a felony; to prescribe the punishment therefor; to provide for related matters; to provide for applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee.

- SB 492. By Senators Pearson of the 51st, Balfour of the 9th, Seabaugh of the 28th, Wiles of the 37th and Rogers of the 21st:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to conservation and natural resources, so as to provide that local governments shall not be denied state funding or water withdrawal permits because of failure to adopt stricter than minimum standards for certain stream or reservoir buffers; to change certain provisions relating to minimum standards and procedures for protection of river corridors, streams, and reservoirs; to change certain provisions relating to model ordinances for effective storm-water management in the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and for a district-wide watershed management plan, annual review, public meetings, certification by director, and local compliance; to change certain provisions relating to best management practices regarding land-disturbing activities; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Natural Resources and the Environment Committee.

- SB 493. By Senators Pearson of the 51st, Balfour of the 9th, Seabaugh of the 28th, Wiles of the 37th and Rogers of the 21st:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 5 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to ad valorem taxation of property, so as to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation on undeveloped land areas within buffer zones established by law or local ordinance adjacent to rivers, perennial streams, or reservoirs, within which buffer zones land-disturbing activity is prohibited and which areas remain in their natural, undisturbed state of vegetation; to eliminate and supersede a provision for current use assessment for buffer zone areas; to provide for applicability; to provide for effective dates; to provide for a special election; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Natural Resources and the Environment Committee.

- SB 494. By Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Carter of the 13th, Smith of the 52nd, Hamrick of the 30th, Thomas of the 54th and others:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 21 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to payment and disposition of fines and forfeitures, so as to provide for a technology and court security fee to be collected in certain courts; to provide for the uses of said technology and court

security fee; to provide for technology and court security boards in each judicial circuit; to provide an effective date; to provide for a repealer; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

SB 495. By Senators Mullis of the 53rd and Shafer of the 48th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulation of fire and other hazards to persons and property generally, so as to provide an increase in fees and charges and provide a fee for blaster certification cards; to require a license prior to conducting blast hole drilling; to amend Chapter 8 of Title 25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulation of blasting operations generally, so as to provide additional definitions; to require a license for blast hole drilling; to require liability insurance for licensed blasters; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee.

SB 496. By Senator Chapman of the 3rd:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide for a homestead exemption from Camden County ad valorem taxes for county purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of that homestead exceeds the base year assessed value of that homestead; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to allow such exemption to continue to be received by a child or unremarried surviving spouse of a deceased individual; to provide for applicability; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

SB 497. By Senator Chapman of the 3rd:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide for a homestead exemption from Camden County School District ad valorem taxes for educational purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of that homestead exceeds the base year assessed value of that homestead; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to allow such exemption to continue to be received

by a child or unremarried surviving spouse of a deceased individual; to provide for applicability; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

SR 760. By Senators Thomas of the 54th and Mullis of the 53rd:

A RESOLUTION honoring the memory of Dr. Eddie Marlow and designating the Dalton Regional Youth Detention Center Medical Clinic as the Dr. Eddie Marlow Medical Clinic; and for other purposes.

Referred to the State Institutions and Property Committee.

SR 764. By Senators Hill of the 32nd, Rogers of the 21st, Balfour of the 9th, Tolleson of the 20th, Mullis of the 53rd and others:

A RESOLUTION expressing dismay at the success of Hamas in the Palestinian elections and calling for action; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Rules Committee.

SR 769. By Senators Johnson of the 1st, Harp of the 29th and Moody of the 56th:

A RESOLUTION urging the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to consider creation of a program of granting undergraduate course credit to entering freshman students who have successfully completed the curriculum and examinations leading to an international baccalaureate diploma; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Higher Education Committee.

The following House legislation was read the first time and referred to committee:

HB 494. By Representatives Lindsey of the 54th and Willard of the 49th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 1 of Chapter 17 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to notaries public, so as to provide for additional qualifications of a notary; to change certain provisions relating to the notary's application; to change certain provisions relating to a

notary's obligation to advise the clerk of superior court of certain changes in personal information; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

HB 950. By Representatives Cox of the 102nd, Burkhalter of the 50th, Horne of the 71st, Burmeister of the 119th, Geisinger of the 48th and others:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to persons and their rights, so as to prohibit governmental entities in this state from restricting or prohibiting a public employee or public school student from verbal expressions relating to the celebration or observance of any public or legal holiday; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for construction; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the State and Local Governmental Operations (General) Committee.

HB 1034. By Representatives Willard of the 49th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Lindsey of the 54th and Geisinger of the 48th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide for a homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of a homestead exceeds the adjusted base year assessed value of such homestead; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1035. By Representatives Willard of the 49th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Lindsey of the 54th and Geisinger of the 48th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide for a homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$10,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city who are disabled or are 65 years of age or over and who meet certain income limitations; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the

exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to provide for applicability; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1036. By Representatives Willard of the 49th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Lindsey of the 54th and Geisinger of the 48th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide for a homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of a homestead exceeds the base year assessed value of such homestead for senior citizens whose household income does not exceed \$39,000.00; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1037. By Representatives Willard of the 49th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Lindsey of the 54th and Geisinger of the 48th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide for a homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$8,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city who are disabled or are 65 years of age or over and who meet certain income limitations; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to provide for applicability; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1038. By Representatives Willard of the 49th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Lindsey of the 54th and Geisinger of the 48th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide for a homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$15,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to provide for applicability; to provide for a



referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1039. By Representatives Willard of the 49th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Lindsey of the 54th and Geisinger of the 48th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide for a homestead exemption from City of Sandy Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes for the full value of the homestead for residents of that city who are disabled or are 70 years of age or over and who meet certain income limitations; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to provide for applicability; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1102. By Representative Greene of the 149th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to repeal an Act providing a new charter for the City of Coleman, approved April 19, 2000 (Ga. L. 2000, p. 3658), and abolish said city; to provide for the disposition of the assets, property, and legal rights and obligations of the city and the winding up of city affairs; to provide for submission under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1117. By Representative Ray of the 136th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act providing for a homestead exemption from Crawford County school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes in the amount of \$20,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for certain residents of that school district whose annual income does not exceed \$20,000.00 and who are 65 years of age or older or disabled, approved April 1, 1994 (Ga. L. 1994, p. 4515), so as to increase the amount of such exemption and the income cap applicable to such exemption; to provide for applicability; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1118. By Representative Ray of the 136th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide that future elections for the office of probate judge of Crawford County shall be nonpartisan elections; to provide for submission of this Act under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1119. By Representative Ray of the 136th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide that future elections for the office of chief magistrate of Crawford County shall be nonpartisan elections; to provide for submission of this Act under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to the State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HR 1041. By Representatives Davis of the 109th, Lunsford of the 110th, Watson of the 91st, Mosby of the 90th, Yates of the 73rd and others:

A RESOLUTION honoring the accomplishments of J. T. Williams and dedicating the J. T. Williams Honorary Bridge; and for other purposes.

Referred to the Transportation Committee.

The following committee reports were read by the Secretary:

Mr. President:

The Education and Youth Committee has had under consideration the following legislation and has instructed me to report the same back to the Senate with the following recommendation:

SB 79	Do Pass by substitute
SB 442	Do Pass
SB 468	Do Pass

Respectfully submitted,  
Senator Moody of the 56th District, Chairman

Mr. President:

The Judiciary Committee has had under consideration the following legislation and has instructed me to report the same back to the Senate with the following recommendation:

SB 396      Do Pass by substitute

Respectfully submitted,  
Senator Smith of the 52nd District, Chairman

Mr. President:

The Science and Technology Committee has had under consideration the following legislation and has instructed me to report the same back to the Senate with the following recommendation:

SB 425      Do Pass by substitute

Respectfully submitted,  
Senator Shafer of the 48th District, Chairman

Mr. President:

The State and Local Governmental Operations Committee has had under consideration the following legislation and has instructed me to report the same back to the Senate with the following recommendation:

SB 450      Do Pass by substitute

Respectfully submitted,  
Senator Wiles of the 37th District, Chairman

The following legislation was read the second time:

SB 202      SB 394      SB 398      SB 408      SB 409

Senator Williams of the 19th asked unanimous consent that Senator Johnson of the 1st be excused. The consent was granted, and Senator Johnson was excused.

Senator Mullis of the 53rd asked unanimous consent that Senator Hamrick of the 30th be excused. The consent was granted, and Senator Hamrick was excused.

Senator Seay of the 34th asked unanimous consent that Senator Reed of the 35th be excused. The consent was granted, and Senator Reed was excused.

The roll was called and the following Senators answered to their names:

Adelman	Hill,Jack	Smith
Balfour	Hill,Judson	Starr
Brown	Hooks	Staton
Bulloch	Hudgens	Stephens
Butler	Jones	Stoner
Cagle	Kemp	Tarver
Carter	Me V Bremen	Tate
Chance	Miles	Thomas,D
Chapman	Moody	Thomas,R
Douglas	Mullis	Thompson,C
Fort	Pearson	Thompson,S
Goggans	Powell	Tolleson
Golden	Rogers	Unterman
Grant	Schaefer	Weber
Harbison	Seabaugh	Whitehead
Harp	Seay	Wiles
Heath	Shafer,D	Williams
Henson		

Not answering were Senators:

Hamrick (Excused)	Johnson (Excused)	Reed (Excused)
Zamarripa		

The members pledged allegiance to the flag.

Senator Tate of the 38th introduced the chaplain of the day, Bishop Lindsey Davis of Norcross, Georgia, who offered scripture reading and prayer.

The following resolutions were read and adopted:

SR 780. By Senators Johnson of the 1st, Williams of the 19th, Brown of the 26th, Mullis of the 53rd, Seay of the 34th and others:

A RESOLUTION commending Senator Terrell Starr for his service during World War II; and for other purposes.

The President spoke to SR 780, commending Senator Terrell Starr for his service in World War II and to the State of Georgia.

Senator Johnson of the 1st recognized Senator Terrell Starr, commended by SR 780, along with representatives of the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust and Holocaust survivors.

Senator Adelman of the 42nd spoke to the resolution and commended Senator Starr and the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust.

Executive Director of the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust Sylvia Wygoda presented Senator Starr with a gift to honor his service.

Senator Starr of the 44th addressed the Senate extemporaneously.

SR 745. By Senator Adelman of the 42nd:

A RESOLUTION recognizing and commending Honorable Shoji Ogawa, Consul General of Japan; and for other purposes

Senator Adelman of the 42nd introduced the Honorable Shoji Ogawa, Consul General of Japan, commended by SR 745. Honorable Shoji Ogawa addressed the Senate briefly.

Senators Staton of the 18th and Douglas of the 17th recognized the family of Specialist Marcus Shawn Futrell, commended by SR 665, adopted previously.

Senator Moody of the 56th introduced the doctor of the day, Dr. Earl Grubbs.

Senator Grant of the 25th recognized representatives from Youth Leadership Baldwin 2006, commended by SR 735, adopted previously.

The following resolutions were read and adopted:

SR 742. By Senator Adelman of the 42nd:

A RESOLUTION recognizing Decatur's own Neighborhood Playhouse and its renaming to Theatre Decatur; and for other purposes.

SR 743. By Senators Tolleson of the 20th, Kemp of the 46th, Staton of the 18th, Meyer von Bremen of the 12th, Hill of the 4th and others:

A RESOLUTION recognizing Community Health Centers Day; and for other purposes.

SR 748. By Senator Williams of the 19th:

A RESOLUTION commending Mr. and Mrs. Uhland Harvey on the occasion of their sixtieth wedding anniversary; and for other purposes.

SR 749. By Senator Williams of the 19th:

A RESOLUTION honoring Reverend Larry Harris and Mrs. Janice Harris on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary; and for other purposes.

SR 750. By Senator Williams of the 19th:

A RESOLUTION honoring and congratulating Mr. Buford West and Mrs. Joyce West on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary; and for other purposes.

SR 751. By Senators Rogers of the 21st and Stephens of the 27th:

A RESOLUTION commending John Matthew Vaughan; and for other purposes.

SR 752. By Senators Rogers of the 21st and Stephens of the 27th:

A RESOLUTION commending Scott Alan Richardson; and for other purposes.

SR 753. By Senator Goggans of the 7th:

A RESOLUTION commending Donn Keegan Wilkinson on becoming an Eagle Scout; and for other purposes.

SR 754. By Senator Goggans of the 7th:

A RESOLUTION congratulating Ms. Jessica Giddens on winning ESPN2's "Ultimate Outdoors" reality show; and for other purposes.

SR 755. By Senator Goggans of the 7th:

A RESOLUTION remembering and honoring the life of Ms. Jane Cersey; and for other purposes.

SR 756. By Senator Harbison of the 15th:

A RESOLUTION commending Devin Johnson; and for other purposes.

SR 757. By Senator Harbison of the 15th:

A RESOLUTION commending Mr. Larry Sanders; and for other purposes.

SR 758. By Senator Harbison of the 15th:

A RESOLUTION commending Mr. Marvin Schuster and congratulating him on receiving the 2006 Jim Woodruff Jr. Memorial Award; and for other purposes.

SR 759. By Senator Harbison of the 15th:

A RESOLUTION commending Lieutenant Colonel Stacie Bearden; and for other purposes.

SR 761. By Senators Thomas of the 54th and Mullis of the 53rd:

A RESOLUTION commending Cohutta First Baptist Church and congratulating it on its 100th anniversary; and for other purposes.

SR 762. By Senators Hill of the 32nd, Rogers of the 21st and Douglas of the 17th:

A RESOLUTION commending United States Marine Lee Merritt for his service to the United States; and for other purposes.

SR 763. By Senators Hill of the 32nd, Rogers of the 21st, Balfour of the 9th, Tolleson of the 20th, Mullis of the 53rd and others:

A RESOLUTION commending Governor Sonny Perdue for authorizing the purchase of \$5 million of State of Israel bonds and urge him to continue his support of State of Israel bonds; and for other purposes.

SR 765. By Senators Hill of the 4th, Kemp of the 46th and Douglas of the 17th:

A RESOLUTION honoring the life of Johnnie Robertson, Sr. and expressing regret at his passing; and for other purposes.

SR 766. By Senators Hill of the 4th and Williams of the 19th:

A RESOLUTION commending Mr. Eldred Tippins, Jr., on his over 40 years of service to Evans County Hospital; and for other purposes.

SR 767. By Senator Hill of the 4th:

A RESOLUTION commending Mr. Gary Smith for his service to the community and to the Industrial Development Authority of Evans County; and for other purposes.

SR 768. By Senators Hill of the 4th, Johnson of the 1st, Chapman of the 3rd, Thomas of the 2nd and Douglas of the 17th:

A RESOLUTION commending the 165th Airlift Wing of Savannah, Georgia; and for other purposes.

SR 770. By Senator Butler of the 55th:

A RESOLUTION commending Marcus Ball for his outstanding achievements as a senior football player for the Stephenson High School football team; and for other purposes.

SR 771. By Senator Butler of the 55th:

A RESOLUTION commending Joyce Wade; and for other purposes.

SR 772. By Senator Butler of the 55th:

A RESOLUTION commending Rosemarie Nelson; and for other purposes.

SR 773. By Senator Butler of the 55th:

A RESOLUTION commending Emanuel Ransom; and for other purposes.

SR 774. By Senator Butler of the 55th:

A RESOLUTION commending Lee Swaney, Mayor of Clarkston; and for other purposes.

SR 775. By Senator Butler of the 55th:

A RESOLUTION commending Wayne Foster; and for other purposes.



SR 776. By Senator Butler of the 55th:

A RESOLUTION commending Hien Dai Nguyen; and for other purposes.

SR 777. By Senator Butler of the 55th:

A RESOLUTION commending Pat Davis-Morris; and for other purposes.

SR 778. By Senator Butler of the 55th:

A RESOLUTION recognizing the Clarkston Health Collaborative for its efforts in promoting the social, economic, and physical well-being of the citizens of the City of Clarkston; and for other purposes.

SR 779. By Senators Pearson of the 51st, Rogers of the 21st, Thomas of the 54th, Hill of the 32nd, Shafer of the 48th and others:

A RESOLUTION remembering and honoring the life of Noah Harris; and for other purposes.

SR 781. By Senator Meyer von Bremen of the 12th:

A RESOLUTION remembering and honoring the life of Mrs. Amanda Green Lyon; and for other purposes.

SR 783. By Senators Johnson of the 1st and Thomas of the 2nd:

A RESOLUTION remembering and honoring the life of Lieutenant Colonel Gregory J. Muller; and for other purposes.

SR 784. By Senator Chapman of the 3rd:

A RESOLUTION congratulating Ms. Mary B. Smart on her 102nd birthday; and for other purposes.

SENATE RULES CALENDAR  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2006  
ELEVENTH LEGISLATIVE DAY

SR 686 Designate; J. Alton Wingate, Sr. Memorial Parkway; Habersham County  
(TRANS-50th)

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Balfour of the 9th, Chairman  
Senate Rules Committee

Senator Staton of the 18th asked unanimous consent that Senator Chapman of the 3rd be excused. The consent was granted, and Senator Chapman was excused.

The following legislation was read the third time and put upon its passage:

SR 686. By Senator Schaefer of the 50th:

A RESOLUTION designating the J. Alton Wingate, Sr., Memorial Parkway;  
and for other purposes.

The report of the committee, which was favorable to the adoption of the resolution, was agreed to.

On the adoption of the resolution, a roll call was taken, and the vote was as follows:

Y Adelman	Y Hill,Jack	Y Smith
Y Balfour	Y Hill,Judson	Y Starr
Y Brown	Y Hooks	Y Staton
Y Bulloch	Y Hudgens	Y Stephens
Butler	Y Johnson	Y Stoner
Y Cagle	Y Jones	Y Tarver
Y Carter	Y Kemp	Tate
Y Chance	Y Me V Bremen	Y Thomas,D
E Chapman	Y Miles	Y Thomas,R
Y Douglas	Y Moody	Y Thompson,C
Fort	Y Mullis	Y Thompson,S
Y Goggans	Y Pearson	Y Tolleson
Y Golden	Powell	Y Unterman
Y Grant	Y Reed	Y Weber
Y Hamrick	Y Rogers	Y Whitehead
Y Harbison	Y Schaefer	Y Wiles
Y Harp	Y Seabaugh	Y Williams
Y Heath	Y Seay	Y Zamarripa
Y Henson	Y Shafer,D	

On the adoption of the resolution, the yeas were 51, nays 0.

SR 686, having received the requisite constitutional majority, was adopted.

The following resolution was read and adopted:

SR 782. By Senators Johnson of the 1st, Williams of the 19th, Hill of the 4th, Douglas of the 17th, Harbison of the 15th and others:

A RESOLUTION calling a joint session of the House of Representatives and the Senate for the purpose of hearing a message from Major General William G. Webster, Jr.; and for other purposes.

Senator Williams of the 19th moved that the Senate adjourn until 10:00 a.m. Thursday, February 2, 2006.

The motion prevailed, and the President announced the Senate adjourned at 11:34 a.m.